



# 13. The fragile gift

Age range: Primary

**Theme:** We gather together for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community, serving the needs of our unique school contexts. As human beings, we have storytelling in our DNA, and so for this final term of the school year, we offer some stories from across the world that help us to think about **'ourselves, others, beauty and/or beyond'**, and wonder together at the power of a story to help connect us and change us. We intentionally use **language from our Diocesan spirituality offer** throughout these resources and hope that this will help to build schools' understanding of the role of collective worship as part of spiritual flourishing. Building on last week's story of Tiddalik the greedy bull-frog and environmental responsibility, and on the back of a very famous 100<sup>th</sup> birthday (Happy Birthday, Sir David!), we reflect on the wonder of the gift of our fragile planet, with its delicate balance of inter-related eco-systems. We reference a poem that you may have in one of the classic primary poetry collections, a poem by Joe Miller, which you can find here, as part of a NATRE article: <https://natre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/REtoday-p48>If-the-Earth.pdf>



### How does this link to your school's Christian vision & values?

The class reflection materials for this term follow the same pattern as previous terms – think, talk and do – but also (where possible) relate to questions about **ourselves, others, beauty and beyond**. This week, we reflect on our environmental responsibilities as stewards of the earth's resources and in a gentle way, remind each other of the fragile gift that we have been given.

### Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation.
- **There is a video of sand artists at Morecambe Bay creating the image of Sir David Attenborough that we use in the slides in this week's materials:** [https://youtu.be/JBWxwKDH\\_AI?si=mg8LZ\\_e5a19m0HXo](https://youtu.be/JBWxwKDH_AI?si=mg8LZ_e5a19m0HXo)
- **This is the link to the King's birthday message to Sir David Attenborough** <https://youtu.be/l1D9YF0YapQ?si=a8rVEM1fTnBrZUD>
- **You will need:** to either access the video of this week's story, (linked from the slide and here: <https://youtu.be/vQMA7IFKGVQ>), or use props/images to tell the story yourself, using the script on p.4 (and slides 22-31)
- **In your reflective areas this week, you will need:** a large map of the world (or globe) and some plasters
- **View a short film about the Artemis II mission here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9C3tc-ws7M&t=63s> There are also extraordinary photos on the NASA website here: <https://www.nasa.gov/gallery/journey-to-the-moon/>
- **'The Glass Cupboard'** is a modern fairy story written by former Monty Python creator Terry Jones and would be an interesting extra cautionary tale that would be ideal for exploring this week. You may want to omit the ending for a younger audience! You can hear it being read here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JijlUluaTRY>

### Gathering:

#### Slide 1: Spinning earth stilling exercise

*Use the stilling slide if desired: the suggested words should be spoken slowly, leaving pauses inbetween to create a sense of stillness.*

As you sit quietly, watch the spinning of our beautiful shared home..... [PAUSE]

Now practise slower breathing.....in.....and out.....in.....and out.....as you watch....[PAUSE]

You maybe notice that you are feeling calmer and more relaxed....[PAUSE]

As you breathe, think about yourself and what you bring into this time today..... [PAUSE]

We come into this special / sacred space and time to be still....to think deeply.....to be together as a school community.....

In our time together today, we will **share a challenge together, share a story, and then share our thinking.**

But first, let's welcome one another as we begin....

- **Slide 2:** Use our new gathering words for this term, or your usual greeting if you prefer. These greetings may change slightly each week to reflect the **spiritual elements** that we will be exploring in each week's materials.

**Leader:** As we gather to share our story today....

**All:** **May we grow in our understanding of ourselves and our wonderful world.**

*Here are BSL actions for some of the words:*

**Leader's words:**



Gather: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/gather> (1st video); Story: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/story> (1st video)

Response words:

Grow: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/grow> (2nd video); Ourselves: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/yourself> (2nd video); World: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/world> (1st video)

Engaging:

- **Slide 3:** You may remember that this term, we are exploring stories that help us to grow, and today's story is brand new and written just for this series!
- **Slide 4:** Last week, we heard about Tiddalik the giant bull-frog and how he greedily stole all the water in the billabong, and our theme for today links with this.....but first, we're going to look back at a couple of ground-breaking events in very recent history.
- **Slide 5: NASA image of Planet Earth**  
This is an image of our beautiful shared home, Planet Earth. It was taken by a tiny spacecraft that was sent to orbit (circle) the Moon and take photos of parts of the Moon that had never been seen before! You might remember the images we saw 3 weeks ago, which were taken from the same spacecraft in April this year.  
The 9-day mission was called Artemis II (2) and took 4 astronauts further away from Earth than had ever been possible before. Although they were there to photograph the Moon, they were also able to capture some images of our beautiful planet.....You can see here on this image both sets of **aurora** – the Northern Lights and Southern Lights – **nature's light shows** which are best seen in the very north or the very south.
- **Slide 6: View of Planet Earth from the Artemis II mission spacecraft**  
*I wonder what this astronaut is thinking as she sees our Planet Earth from the window? [ask some children]*
- **Slide 7: Sir David Attenborough turns 100**  
This year also marked a very special birthday – the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Sir David Attenborough\*. I expect that some of you may have had your own celebrations in school.... *[you might like to reference these]*. King Charles sends special messages to anyone who turns 100, and he sent a **very special message** to Sir David *[watch here if you have time, or later if you wish; it links from the image – and from the resources list above.]*  
You will probably remember from any of the images you saw of his celebrations that our Blue Planet featured in so much of his work. He has helped so many of us to both **appreciate its beauty** and reflect on its fragility, and it's these ideas that are going to feature in our story for today....Our story is called.....  
*\*NB This image of Sir David was created in sand on Morecambe Beach.  
You can watch the video of it being created, linked from the resources list.*
- **Slide 8: The Fragile Gift...**a reflective, interactive story....  
*The video is linked from the image, or you can tell the story for yourself using the script on p4 and the props or the image slides at the end of this presentation.  
There are places where you should pause the video/story and think together.....do make full use of these opportunities rather than just let the video play, as it will help children to engage better with content that follows.*

**Slide 9: Responding (words for worship), with wondering questions....**

Our story suggested that there are many different beliefs about how our beautiful shared home came to be....We might also have ideas about how we should care for it, which we might talk more about in RE or in Science or in our Eco Teams! But perhaps an equally important question is....

**...Does the world belong to us?...**

*[Talk together about your ideas]*

Here are some words to help us to think – some from **the Bible**, and others spoken by **Sir David Attenborough**

**...I wonder if there are connections between these words?...**

**...I wonder what difference they might make to our actions in the world?...**

**...If God made the world, I wonder what he might think?...**



We are going to use some images and words together now to help us to pray if you'd like to. The words for us to say together are....

**Slide 10: 'We will care for this precious gift.'** So, join with me if you would like to.....

**Slide 11:** Planet Earth is a place of wonder.....

**Slide 12: 'We will care for this precious gift.'**

**Slide 13:** Planet Earth is a fragile and perfect balance of earth, sea and sky, and we need to keep it that way....

**Slide 14: 'We will care for this precious gift.'**

**Slide 15:** Planet Earth is our shared home.....

**Slide 16: 'We will care for this precious gift.'**

**Slide 17:** Even when it's difficult....

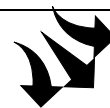
**Slide 18: 'We will care for this precious gift.'**

**Slide 19: Amen**

**Sending: Slide 20**

**Leader:** As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead...

**All: May we care for this precious gift!**



**To sing / listen to:**

[One world](#) (NBD)



**Slide 21: Reflective areas**

*You will need a large map or globe and some plasters (NB check you can peel them off easily!]*

**Think:** Think about the things that you love about our beautiful Planet Earth.

**Talk:** Talk about how we can be more careful and responsible in the way that we live. What promises should we make?

**Do:** Write your idea on a plaster and stick it onto the world map to show your promise. You might also want to pray for God's help.



## Slide 8: The Fragile Gift

*This is the script of the reflective story video that has been created for this week's collective worship. It might be that you wish to recreate the resources and tell it for yourself IRL, so links to where items were purchased are listed below! Some are more pricey than others....*

- Planet earth beach ball
- Small gift, wrapped in paper on which you've printed Planet Earth as a logo (p5)
- Crocheted Earth: £7.00 [8cm](#)
- Bauble earth (which I hand-painted with glass pens): £7.49 for 10 [Amazon, 8cm](#) Fill this with plastic gemstones & a small LEGO tree
- Earth stress ball: £5.99 for 5 [Amazon/BakerRoss](#)
- Commemorative LEGO David Attenborough figure: £19.99 [Minifigs](#)
- Earth Marble: £7.99 [small \(22mm\)](#) or £17.99 [larger \(35mm\)](#), placed into treasure / jewellery box

Our Blue Planet is a precious gift.... *[place wrapped gift]*

.....full of beautiful things for us to enjoy, a place for us to live and love and play in.....*[beach ball video]*

There are many different beliefs about how it all started, some say **with a Bang**, others that **'God made....'**, but there is no doubt that our planet is a precious place..... *[place crocheted Earth]*, a perfect balance of earth and ice and sea and sky....

*[Place bauble earth]* Planet Earth is our fragile, beautiful, shared home, a place where we belong, together. We share this space with millions of different creatures and plants.... **I wonder which are your favourites?....** *[PAUSE to find out]*

*[Shake bauble earth to rattle contents]* But our beautiful planet also holds many treasures, some buried deep beneath its surface *['crack' open bauble to release contents]* ....others growing from the earth, treasures that we all depend on *[stand tree up]*.....things that have made some people rich beyond compare.....and that others have wasted.

Imagine if we had to choose between these treasures and the survival of all the wonderful creatures we have just named?.... **What would you decide?....**

*[PAUSE to find out]*



It's true that we haven't always cared for our precious Planet Earth as we should *[hold and squeeze stress ball earth]* – and now our planet is showing us the damage that we have caused....

But all is not yet lost.... People like this great man, *[LEGO David Attenborough]* who turned 100 this year, have shown us the many extraordinary wonders of our natural world – and reminded us that we should **“Cherish the natural world, because *[we]’re a part of it and [we] depend on it.*”** And every human being has a part to play in its present and its future....we can all still make a difference....there is still time! But we need to work together.....

So, let's treat Planet Earth, our shared home, like the treasure that it is *[open box to reveal Earth marble]*, a fragile and precious gift that we must love and look after.....for ourselves and for every living thing.

***Image for printing onto paper to make wrapping paper:***





*Planet Earth is our beautiful shared home*



**Think about the things that you love about our beautiful Planet Earth.**



**Talk about how we can be more careful and responsible in the way that we live. What promises should we make?**



**Write your idea on a plaster and stick it onto the world map to show your promise. You might also want to pray for God's help.**

